His Majesty's

MOST GRACIOUS

SPEECH

To both HOUSES of

PARLIAMENT,

On *Thursday* the Second Day of *December*, 1756.

LONDON:

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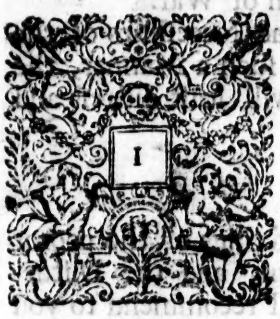
His MAJESTY's moſt gracious SPEECH to both HOUSES of Parliament, on *Thurſday* the Second Day of *December*, 1756.

My Lords, and Gentlemen,



I Have called you together in a Conjuncture, which highly requires the Deliberation, Advice, and Aſſiſtance of Parliament; and I truſt, that (under the Guidance of Divine Providence) Union and Firmneſs in My affectionate People will carry Me, with Honour, through all Difficulties; and finally vindicate the Dignity of My Crown, and its indubitable Rights, againſt the ancient Enemy of theſe Kingdoms.

The Succour and Preſervation of *America* cannot but conſtitute a main Object of My Attention and Solicitude; and the growing Dangers, to which Our Colonies may ſtand expoſed, from Our late Loſſes in thoſe Parts, demand Reſolutions of Vigour and Diſpatch.

An adequate and firm Defence at Home muſt have the chief Place in My Thoughts; and in this great View, I have nothing ſo much at Heart, as that no Ground of Diſſatisfaction may remain in My People.

To this End, a National Militia, planned and regulated with equal Regard to the juſt Rights of My Crown and People, may, in Time, become one good Reſource, in caſe of general Danger; and I recommend the framing of ſuch a Militia to the Care and Diligence of My Parliament.

The unnatural Union of Councils Abroad; the Calamities, which, in Conſequence of this unhappy Conjunction, may, by Eruptions of Foreign Armies into the Empire, ſhake its Conſtitutions, overturn its Syſtem, and threaten Oppreſſion to the Proteſtant Intereſt there, are Events, which muſt ſenſibly affect the Minds of this Nation, and have fixed the Eyes of *Europe* on this new and dangerous Criſis.

The Body of My Electoral Troops, which I ordered hither at the Deſire of My Parliament, I have directed to return to My Dominions in *Germany;* relying, with Pleaſure, on the Spirit and Zeal of My People, in Defence of My Perſon and Realm.

Gentlemen of the Houſe of Commons,

I will order the proper Eſtimates to be laid, in due Time, before you; and I rely on your Wiſdom, that you will prefer more vigorous Efforts (tho' attended with large Expence) to a leſs effectual, and therefore leſs frugal, Plan of War.

I have placed before you the Dangers and Neceſſities of the Publick; it will be your Care to lay, in ſuch a Manner, the Burdens you may judge unavoidable, as will leaſt diſtreſs and exhauſt My People.

My Lords, and Gentlemen,

I cannot here be unmindful of the Sufferings of the poorer Sort, from the preſent high Price of Corn, and the Diſturbances which have ariſen therefrom; and I recommend to you to conſider of proper Proviſions, for preventing the like Miſchiefs hereafter.

Unproſperous Events of War in the *Mediterranean* have drawn from My Subjects ſignal Proofs, how dearly they tender My Honour, and that of My Crown; and they cannot, on My Part, fail to meet with juſt Returns of unwearied Care, and unceaſing Endeavours for the Glory, Proſperity, and Happineſs of My People.

F I N I S.